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M. W. YOUNGS, Editor.
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CHRISTMAS FIRE HAZARDS.

Christmas and its joys should not be allowed to blind men to the ordinary rules of safety for the protection of the home and the lives of the family. And yet at holiday time parents who try to keep their children free from even the possibility of danger will install in the heart of their homes, where it is sure to be the center of attraction for the little ones, the most inflammable thing that ever entered the ordinary evergreen Christmas tree. While it grows more dry and dangerous in the warm rooms they drape it with cotton for snow, tissue paper, loops and tinsel for decorations, stick candles all over it, hang up toys that every child will grab for, and then trust to luck and providence for safety from a hazard that may prove as dangerous and as deadly as a rattlesnake or an open keg of gunpowder. Just to play fair and take his share of the chances pater familias often surrounds himself with pillows, puts on cotton hair and whiskers and makes himself more of a menace than a help in case a fire should start. And from the start, thousands of them every holiday season. Firemen look forward to a run of Christmas tree fires just as they did to Fourth of July fires before the San Francisco movement put an end to them in many places. Why not a San Christmas as well as a San Fourth? Why should the children's festival be made the means of destroying hundreds of lives and thousands of homes? Use little electric lights instead of candles, asbestos instead of cotton, non-combustible decorations instead of inflammables, and then watch the tree with the utmost care, especially when the children are around it. It's better to be safe than sorry, especially with the little ones at Christmas time.

MICHIGAN AT THE EXPO.

Upon the convening of the legislature in January, a bill will be introduced calling for an appropriation to defray the expense of the state's participation in the Panama-Pacific International exposition, to be held in San Francisco, February 20 to December 4, 1915, in celebration of the completion of the Panama Canal.

As every citizen is justly proud of that great achievement he will want to see his influence in securing such legislative action as will result in a representation on the part of Michigan worthy of its importance.

Already thirty states have taken legislative action looking toward participation. Of these, seventeen have authorized sites for their state buildings. Never before has there been so great an opportunity as this for the states of the nation to make their resources, opportunities and advantages known. They will display their advantages to a world eager to learn, and an important Europe will send its immigrants.

The universal interest in the exposition is evidenced by the fact that twenty-two foreign governments have already accepted the invitation of President Taft to participate, a number of acceptances far greater than those received by any previous exposition so long prior to the date set for the opening; but no matter how great the assurance of foreign participation, the pride of the American people can only be properly expressed by the participation of the states of the American Union.

THE THRIFTIEST NATION.

The Swiss government has just published the results of an inquiry it has been making into the savings of the Swiss people and the means of their disposal.

It applied direct to the savings banks to supply the information required. Seven banks out of a total of 1,954 refused to comply with the government's request, but the other 1,947 all sent in full particulars of their work.

Everywhere it is apparent that thrift is very much on the increase. For instance, in the ten years from 187 to 1908 the average sum in savings banks per head of the Swiss

population rose from 309 to 445 francs. In other words, Switzerland, from the savings bank standard, is the thriftiest nation.

Next to her comes Denmark with 391 francs saved per head of population, and then, a long way behind, the German empire with 291 (Prussia 309, Bavaria 28, Saxony 405 and Wurtemberg 231), Norway 274, the United States 229, Austria 211, Sweden 197, Hungary 158, France 123, Belgium 129, Great Britain 122, Italy 108, the Netherlands 89 and Russia 79.

Of course, it must always be remembered that the Morning Post (Berne correspondent) how many forms of saving exist; and it is doubtful whether life insurance, for instance, is as common in Switzerland as in England, Switzerland as yet has no postoffice savings bank, and no penny savings bank, although thirty-nine of her savings banks will open an account for a sum of 1 franc or less, while only three require 10 francs or more as a deposit.

The Swiss government is naturally exceedingly anxious to promote thrift in every possible way, and to this end nothing is considered better than the often-discussed plan of the introduction of postoffice savings banks in the British system. At the end of 1908, the year in question, the sum lying in savings banks to the credit of Swiss subjects amounted to nearly \$7,500,000 francs, as compared with not quite 10,000,000 francs in 1897.

GOOD RECOMMENDATIONS.

In last evening's issue we published a list of the recommendations of State Game Warden W. R. Oates for changes in the game laws. Mr. Oates evidently has looked closely into the matter and conferred with numerous sportsmen actively interested in the protection of game in the north woods, for the amendments he proposes are in line with those suggested by sportsmen's clubs and many individual hunters. Probably the most important recommendation, and the one most generally desired, is that of reducing the number of deer a hunter may legally kill to one and that one a buck. This, it is contended, and with good reason, will lessen the number of annual hunting fatalities and increase the natural propagation of deer by protecting the does. A gun license law also would be a good measure, for it would provide funds for further game protection and propagation and impose no hardship on anyone. These two suggested changes in the laws would do much to prolong hunting beyond the time when it otherwise would become extinct, and make the sport safer as well.

The decision of the U. S. supreme court against the great Harriman merger, created when the Union Pacific Railroad company bought 46 per cent of the stock of the Southern Pacific railway system, will have the effect of preventing the consolidation of competing roads, and will work to the best interests of the public generally. The court construed the merger as a violation of the anti-trust law, and set forth a portentous declaration that "while the law may not be able to enforce competition, it can reach combinations which render competition impracticable."

A somewhat interesting, even amusing feature of the state patronage matter is that letters and telegrams are pouring in upon Gov.-elect Ferris on behalf of William R. Oates, state game and fish warden. All these urge that Mr. Oates be retained. Now as a matter of fact Mr. Oates' commission still has three years to run, so that Mr. Ferris, in his first term, will not have the naming of a game and fish commissioner. Mr. Oates will hold the job unless it is abolished, as has been suggested several times without effect.

The first bill introduced in the House yesterday was one by Rep. DeForest, of New York, to pension former presidents and the widows of former presidents. Evidently the Carnegie pension system hastened the introduction of this proposed legislation, which involves a function generally regarded as properly that of the nation's. However, the proposition will not likely have clear sailing for it already has been denounced by some members as a mark of "toddism and junketism."

Many people have wasted a lot of sympathy on that Cameron girl, who, it is announced, will wed Jack Johnson, the negro pugilist, tonight. After all that has been done by her mother and others to redeem her she has elected to enter into a match which custom and good morals forbid. No wonder her mother, when she found how she had been finally deceived, exclaimed, "I am through."

One French expert remarks that the gain from the Panama canal will not

CEDARS OF AMERICA AND PENCILMAKING

It is said that American cedars furnish the only wood known of which good lead pencils can be made and in connection with this information we learn that American cedars are becoming scarce. The pencil industry is a big one, and, curiously enough, perhaps, it is said to be bigger today than it was before the day of typewriters. A factory in Germany turns out annually 300,000,000 lead pencils made out of the wood of the cedar tree of America. The forest service of the United States, which is a bureau of the agricultural department, makes a study of means to preserve the tree supply, and it is not to be supposed that it has overlooked the cedar, fragrant, useful and beautiful. The hickory is a subject of anxiety to the forest officials, and so is the chestnut. These two species are named because just at present the fear of their extinction is greater than that which concerns itself with other growths. The hickory and the chestnut have been attacked by new enemies, and in one case nothing definite is known about the ravages, nor has any adequate means been found to put an end to its ravages.

The cedar, it is understood, has as its chief enemy a lumberman's axe. The demand for the wood of the tree is so great that the growth can not keep pace with the market. It is known, however, that finally the lumbermen have come to realize they can secure their trade product in such a way as to help the cause of reproduction. Most of the states of the Union have passed laws to protect their forests. Law can enter a private domain. A farmer, for instance, is not allowed to shoot game birds out of season, even though they are found in his own fields. The state of Maine, to take a notable example, has laws which tend to make the owner of forests have a care for the future.

Cedar is worth something besides the giving of its wood to the pencil makers. Its berries furnish forth the breakfast tables of thousands of useful wild birds. When a robin can find a suitable cedar swamp with plenty of berries it will stay in the north all winter, and care nothing for the cold. There is something more than sentiment, however, attaching to the tree-saving cause. Hard business sense suggests "conserving our trees and having them." The lumbermen today exercise care in "taking out" a tree that was unknown to the industry in the past. Sense and sentiment are good partners.

—Chicago Post.

"THIS IS MY 43RD BIRTHDAY."

Rev Joseph N. Dinand, president of Holy Cross College, Worcester, Mass., was born in Boston, Dec. 3, 1869. He matriculated at Holy Cross in 1884 and ten years later entered the Society of Jesus at the novitiate in Froidrich, Md. He studied philosophy in Woodstock, Md., from 1892 to 1895, and for the five years following continued his studies at St. Francis Xavier's College, New York city. He returned to Woodstock in 1900 and remained there four years, studying theology. From there he went to St. Andrew's on the Hudson, where he completed his studies. For four years he was engaged in missionary work in the West Indies. From 1909 until his appointment to the presidency of Holy Cross College a year ago, Father Dinand was superior of the Jesuit novitiate at Poughkeepsie.

George H. Denny, president of the University of Alabama, 42 years old today.

Maj. Gen. William D. Otter, inspector general of Canadian militia, 69 years old today.

Rt. Rev. Lemuel H. Wells, Protestant Episcopal bishop of Spokane, 71 years old today.

Jules Claretie, famous as the director of the Theatre Francaise for many years, 72 years old today.

Cleveland Abbe, the distinguished meteorologist who was the first to establish a system of daily weather maps of the United States, 74 years old today.

The eighteen-year-old daughter of King Charles of Roumania may some day be head of the Balkan empire, the followers of recent events in the Near East predict. Her complete name is Elizabeth Charlotte Josephine Victoria Alexandra. She is the eldest daughter of the king. Her betrothal to Prince Boris (Sarcavitch) of Bulgaria has long been talked of. Now that events have moved Bulgaria so swiftly to the fore, the heir to the Bulgarian throne becomes one of the most sought for bridegrooms in Europe, and the engagement of the Roumanian princess and the Bulgarian prince, which seems to be fairly certain, will make these countries even stronger.

Electric heat is used to prevent the water freezing in a fire protection tank high on top of a New York office building.

be very great. But the canal will do its appointed work regardless of the experts' feelings.

A lot of proud men are now retreating Carnegie pensions that haven't been offered to them.

The suffragettes may have been counted out, but they are not down by any means.

St. Nick will soon be the leading citizen.

NEW POLICIES INCREASE TRADE

President Submits First of Series of Messages Today

(Continued from Page One.)

motion in the diplomatic and consular services.

The president, in his message, says in part:

To the Senate and House of Representatives: The foreign relations of the United States actually and potentially affect the state of the Union to a degree not widely realized and hardly surpassed by any other factor in the welfare of the whole nation. The position of the United States in the moral, intellectual and material relations of the family of nations should be a matter of vital interest to every patriotic citizen. The national prosperity and power impose upon us duties which we cannot shrink if we are to be true to our ideals.

The tremendous growth of the export trade of the United States has already made that trade a very real factor in the industrial and commercial prosperity of the country. With the development of our industries the foreign commerce of the United States must rapidly become a still more essential factor in its economic welfare.

The relations of the United States with all foreign powers remain upon a sound basis of peace, harmony and friendship. A greater insistence upon justice to American citizens or interests wherever it may have been denied and a stronger emphasis of the need of mutual aid in commercial and other relations have only served to strengthen our friendship with foreign countries by placing those friendships upon a firm foundation of realities as well as aspirations.

Reorganization of State Department.

At the beginning of the present administration the United States, having fully entered upon its position as a world power, with the responsibilities thrust upon it by the results of the Spanish-American war and already engaged in laying the groundwork of a vast foreign trade upon which it should one day become more and more dependent, found itself without the machinery for giving thorough attention to and taking effective action upon a mass of intricate business vital to American interests in every country in the world.

The department of state was an archaic and inadequate machine, lacking most of the attributes of the foreign office of any great modern power. With an appropriation made upon my recommendation by the congress on Aug. 5, 1905, the department of state was completely reorganized. There were created divisions of Latin American affairs and of far eastern, near eastern and western European affairs.

The law officers of the department were greatly strengthened. There were added foreign trade advisers to cooperate with the diplomatic and consular bureaus and the politico-geographical divisions in the innumerable matters where commercial diplomacy or consular work calls for such special knowledge. The same officers, together with the rest of the new organization, are able at all times to give to American citizens accurate information as to conditions in foreign countries with which they have business and likewise to cooperate more effectively with the congress and also with the other executive departments.

Merit System in Consular and Diplomatic Corps.

Expert knowledge and professional training must evidently be the essence of this reorganization. Without a trained foreign service there would not be men available for the work in the reorganized department of state. President Cleveland had taken the first step toward introducing the merit system in the foreign service. That had been followed by the application of the merit principle, with excellent results to the entire consular branch. Almost nothing, however, had been done in this direction with regard to the diplomatic service. In this age of commercial diplomacy it was evidently of the first importance to train an adequate personnel in that branch of the service.

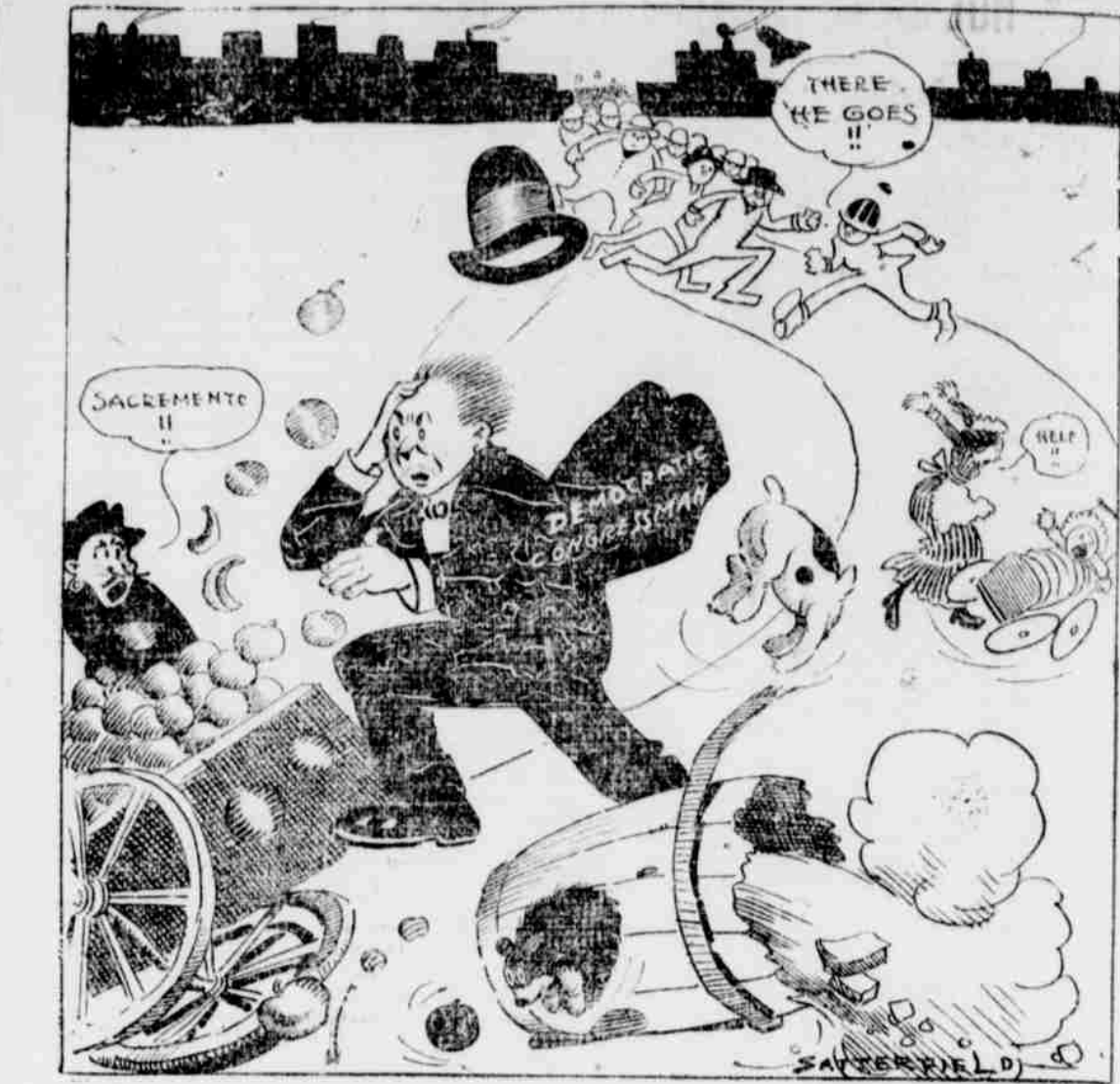
Therefore, on Nov. 26, 1909, by an executive order I placed the diplomatic service up to the grade of secretary of embassy, inclusive, upon exactly the same strict nonpartisan basis of the merit system, rigid examination for appointment and promotion only for efficiency, as had been maintained without exception in the consular service.

Merit and Nonpartisan Character of Appointments.

How faithful to the merit system and how nonpartisan has been the conduct of the diplomatic and consular services in the last four years may be judged from the following: Three ambassadors now serving held their present rank at the beginning of my administration. Of the ten ambassadors whom I have appointed five were by promotion from the rank of minister. Nine ministers now serving held their present rank at the beginning of the administration. Of the thirty ministers promoted from the lower grades of the foreign service or from the department of state. Of the nineteen ministers in Latin America, where our relations are close and our interest is great, fifteen chiefs of mission are service men, three having entered the service during this administration.

The thirty-seven secretaries of embassy or legation who have received their initial appointments after passing successfully the required examination were chosen for ascertained fitness without regard to political affiliations.

WHY DOES THE MAN RUN?



OH, BECAUSE ABOUT 11,000 OFFICE SEEKERS ARE AFTER HIM.

A dearth of candidates from southern and western states has alone made it impossible thus far completely to equalize all the states' representations in the foreign service. In the effort to equalize the representation of the various states in the consular service I have made sixteen of the twenty-nine new appointments as consul which have occurred during my administration from the southern states. This is 55 per cent. Every other consular appointment made, including the promotion of eleven young men from the consular assistant and student interpreter corps, has been by promotion or transfer, based solely upon efficiency shown in the service.

Larger Provision For Embassies and Legations Recommended.

In connection with legislation for the amelioration of the foreign service, I wish to invite attention to the advisability of placing the salary appropriations upon a better basis. I believe that the best results would be obtained by a moderate scale of salaries, with adequate funds for the expenses of proper representation, based in each case upon the grade and cost of living at each post, controlled by a system of accounting and under the general direction of the department of state.

In line with the object which I have sought of placing our foreign service on a basis of permanency, I have at various times advocated provision by congress for the acquisition of government-owned buildings for the residence and offices of our diplomatic officers, so as to place them more nearly on an equality with similar officers of other nations and to do away with the discrimination which otherwise must necessarily be made in some cases in favor of men having large private fortunes.

Diplomacy a Handmaid of Commercial Intercourse and Peace.

The diplomacy of the present administration has sought to respond to modern ideas of commercial intercourse. This policy has been characterized as substituting dollars for bullets. It is one that appeals alike to idealistic humanitarian sentiments, to the dictates of sound policy and strategy and to legitimate commercial aims. It is an effort frankly directed to the increase of American trade upon the axiomatic principle that the government of the United States shall extend all proper support to every legitimate and beneficial American enterprise abroad. How great have been the results of this diplomacy, coupled with the maximum and minimum provision of the tariff law, will be seen by some consideration of the wonderful increase in the export trade of the United States. Because modern diplomacy is commercial there has been a disposition in some quarters to attribute to it none but materialistic aims. How strikingly erroneous is such an impression may be seen from a study of the results by which the diplomacy of the United States can be judged.

Successful Efforts in Promotion of Peace.

In the field of work toward the ideals of peace this government negotiated, but to my regret was unable to consummate, two arbitration treaties which set the highest mark of the aspiration of nations toward the substitution of arbitration and reason for war in the settlement of international disputes. Through the efforts of American diplomacy several wars have been prevented or ended. I refer to the successful tripartite mediation of the Argentine Republic, Brazil, and the United States between Peru and Ecuador, the bringing of the boundary dispute between Panama and Costa Rica to peaceful arbitration; the staying of warlike preparations when Haiti and the Dominican Republic were on the verge of hostilities; the stopping of a war in Nicaragua; the halting of internecine strife in Honduras.

The government of the United States was thanked for its influence toward the restoration of amicable relations between the Argentine Republic

and Bolivia. The diplomacy of the United States is active in seeking to assume the remaining ill feeling between this country and the republic of Colombia. In the recent civil war in China the United States successfully joined with the other interested powers in urging an early cessation of hostilities. An agreement has been reached between the governments of Chile and Peru whereby the celebrated Tacna-Arica dispute, which has so long embittered international relations on the west coast of South America, has at last been adjusted. Simultaneously came the news that the boundary dispute between Peru and Ecuador had entered upon a stage of amicable settlement.

China.

In China the policy of encouraging financial investment to enable that country to help itself has had the result of giving new life and practical application to the open door policy. The consistent purpose of the present administration has been to encourage the use of American capital in the development of those essential reforms to which China is pledged by treaties with the United States and other powers.

The hypothesis to foreign bankers in connection with certain industrial enterprises, such as the Hukang railways, of the national revenues upon which these reforms depended, led the department of state early in the administration to demand for American citizens participation in such enterprises, in order that the United States might have equal rights and an equal voice in all questions pertaining to the disposition of the public revenues concerned.

The same policy of promoting international accord among the powers having similar treaty rights as ourselves in the matters of reform, which could not be put into practical effect without the common consent of all, was likewise adopted in the case of the loan desired by China for the reform of its currency. The principle of international cooperation in matters of common interest upon which our policy had already been based in all of the above instances has admittedly been a great factor in that concert of the powers which has been so happily conspicuous during the perilous period of transition through which the great Chinese nation has been passing.

Central America Needs Our Help in Debt Adjustment.

In Central America the aim has been to help such countries as Nicaragua and Honduras to help themselves. They are the immediate beneficiaries. The national benefit to the United States is twofold. First, it is obvious that the Monroe doctrine is more vital in the neighborhood of the Panama canal and the zone of the Caribbean than anywhere else. There, too, the maintenance of that doctrine falls most heavily upon the United States. It is therefore essential that the countries within that sphere shall be removed from the jeopardy involved by heavy foreign debt and chaotic national finances and from the ever-present danger of international complications due to disorder at home.

Hence the United States has been glad to encourage and support American bankers who were willing to lend a helping hand to the financial rehabilitation of such countries because this financial rehabilitation and the protection of their custom houses from being the prey of would-be dictators would remove at one stroke the menace of foreign creditors and the menace of revolutionary disorder.

I wish to call your especial attention to the recent occurrences in Nicaragua, for I believe the terrible events recorded there during the revolution of the past summer—the useless loss of life, the devastation of property, the killing and wounding of women and children, the torturing of noncombatants to exact contributions and the suffering of thousands of human beings—might have been averted had the

department of state, through approval of the loan convention by the senate, been permitted to carry out its now well developed policy of encouraging the extending of financial aid to weak Central American states with the primary objects of avoiding just such revolutions by assisting those republics to rehabilitate their finances, to establish their currency on a stable basis, to remove the custom houses from the danger of revolutions by arranging for their secure administration, and to establish reliable banks.

I wish to congratulate the officers and men of the United States navy and marine corps who took part in reestablishing order in Nicaragua upon their splendid conduct and to record with sorrow the death of seven American marines and bluejackets. Since the reestablishment of peace and order elections have been held amid conditions of quiet and tranquillity. Nearly all the American marines have now been withdrawn.

Our Mexican Policy.

For two years revolution and counter revolution have distraught the neighboring republic of Mexico. Brigandage has involved a great deal of depredation upon foreign interests. There have constantly recurred questions of extreme delicacy. On several occasions very difficult situations have arisen on our frontier. Throughout this trying period the policy of the United States has been one of patient nonintervention, steadfast recognition of consistent authority in the neighboring nation and the exertion of every effort to cure for American interests. I profoundly hope that the Mexican nation may soon resume the path of order, prosperity and progress. To that nation in its sore troubles the sympathetic friendship of the United States has been demonstrated to a high degree.

There were in Mexico at the beginning of the revolution some 30,000 or 40,000 American citizens engaged in enterprises contributing greatly to the prosperity of that republic and also benefiting the important trade between the two countries. The investments of American capital in Mexico has been estimated at \$1,000,000,000. The responsibility of endeavoring to safeguard those interests and the dangers inseparable from propinquity to so turbulent a situation have been great, but I am happy to have been able to adhere to the policy above outlined a policy which I hope may soon be justified by the complete success of the Mexican people in regaining the blessings of peace and good order.

Agricultural Credits.

A most important work accomplished in the past year by the American diplomatic officers in Europe is the investigation of the agricultural credit system in the European countries. Such a means to afford relief to the consumers of this country through a more thorough development of agricultural resources and as a means of more efficiently maintaining the agricultural population, the project to establish credit facilities for the farmers is a concern of vital importance to this nation.

No evidence of prosperity among well established farmers should blind us to the fact that lack of capital is preventing a development of the nation's agricultural resources and an adequate increase of the land under cultivation; that agricultural production is fast falling behind the increase in population and that, in fact, although these well established farmers are maintaining an increasing prosperity because of the natural increase in population, we are not developing the industry of agriculture.

Advantage of Maximum and Minimum Tariff Provision.

The importance which our manufacturers have assumed in the commerce of the world in competition with the manufactures of other countries again draws attention to the duty of this

(Continued on Page Five.)